

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 04668 01 OF 02 222152Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-12
OES-07 OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 /109 W
-----090930 22215Z /73

R 222101Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4475
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAREUR

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 04668

E. O. NA
TAGS: UK MNUC MMOL MPOL
SUBJECT: POLARIS MISSILE REPLACEMENT

SUMMARY: IN COMMONS ON 21 MARCH, MULLEY WAS PRESSED BY BOTH LABOR LEFT-WING BACKBENCHERS AND SIR IAN GILMOUR (OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON DEFENSE) TO STATE THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS ABOUT ANY NEW GENERATION OF UK NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND MISSILES. IN A FAIRLY LENGTHY EXCHANGE, MULLEY WAS DRIVEN TO ASSERTING THAT THE LABOR GOVERNMENT STANDS BY ITS COMMITMENT IN THE ELECTION MANIFESTO "NOT TO PROCEED WITH A NEW GENERATION OF NUCLEAR STRATEGIC MISSILES." END SUMMARY. TO REFLECT THE NUANCES IN THE GIVE AND TAKE ON THIS MATTER, WE QUOTE IN FULL THE REPORT OF THE EXCHANGE AS PUBLISHED IN THE TIMES OF 22 MARCH.

BEGIN TEXT: THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO PLANS FOR ANY NEW GENERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, MR. FREDERICK MULLEY, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE, SAID.

HE INFORMED MR. NORMAN ATKINSON (HARINGEY, TOTTENHA
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 04668 01 OF 02 222152Z

LAB) THAT HE EXPECTED TO MEET DR. LUNS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO, AT THE BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP NEXT MONTH WHICH WOULD REVIEW GENERAL NUCLEAR ISSUES.

MR. ATKINSON - IN ITS OCTOBER 1974 MANIFESTO THE LABOUR PARTY CLEARLY DECLARED THAT IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO INTRODUCE ANY NEW GENERATION OF NUCLEAR

WEAPONS EITHER IN THE WARHEADS OR METHODS OF DELIVERY.
WILL THE MINISTER NOW STAND BY THAT DECLARATION THAT
WE MADE AT THE ELECTION?

MR. MULLEY - WE HAVE NO PLANS FOR ANY NEW GENERATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

SIR IAN GILMOUR, CHIEF OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON
DEFENCE (CHESHAM AND AMERSHAM, C) - WHEN THE MINISTER
SAYS HE HAS NO PLANS FOR ANY NEW GENERATION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS, DOES THIS MEAN NATURAL INDECISIVENESS OR
THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAVE DECIDED NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH
ANY FUTURE GENERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

MR. MULLEY - IT MEANS THAT SINCE OUR EXISTING STRATEGIC
NUCLEAR FORCE HAS MANY YEARS OF EFFECTIVE LIFE LEFT TO
IT THERE IS NO OCCASION FOR A DECISION TO BE TAKEN
AS TO WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN THEREAFTER.

SIR IAN GILMOUR - THAT IS AN EVASIVE ANSWER. IT IS
AGREED THAT IF WE ARE TO HAVE A NEW GENERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS A DECISION HAS TO BE MADE WELL BEFORE
1980.

MR. MULLEY - I DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE MEANS BY SAYING
THAT IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE A
DECISION BEFORE 1980. A PAMPHLET WAS WRITTEN EXPRESS-
ING THAT VIEW. MANY THINGS CAN HAPPEN IN THE NEXT
DECADE ALL OF WHICH COULD HAVE A RELEVANCE TO OUR
FUTURE ROLE IN THESE MATTERS.

IN LATER EXCHANGES, MR. MULLEY TOLD MR. FRANK
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 04668 01 OF 02 222152Z

ALLAUM (SALFORD, EAST, LAB) - STUDIES AND COMPONENT
DEVELOPMENTS ARE UNDER WAY IN INDUSTRY ON A NUMBER
OF MISSILE PROJECTS AS DETAILED IN THE STATEMENT ON
THE "DEFENCE ESTIMATES."

THEY ARE TO MEET OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND ARE
QUITE DISTINCT FROM OUR LIMITED STUDIES INTO CRUISE
MISSILES WHICH ARE TO ENABLE US TO PARTICIPATE IN NATO
DISCUSSIONS ON THE DEFENCE POTENTIAL AND ARMS CONTROL
IMPLICATIONS OF THESE SYSTEMS.

WE HAVE NO PLANS TO DEVELOP A CRUISE MISSILE OR A
SUCCESSOR TO POLARIS.

MR. ALLAUN - WILL HE GIVE A FIRM UNDERTAKING THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WILL KEEP ITS PLEDGE AND NOT EMBARK ON A NEW
GENERATION OF THESE STRATEGIC WEAPONS? ALSO, DESPITE
THE FACT THAT STERLING 120,000 HAS ALREADY BEEN SPENT ON
PRELIMINARY PROJECTS, IS IT TRUE THERE HAS BEEN NO
MENTION OF THIS IN FULL CABINET?

MR. MULLEY - ONE CAN BUY VERY LITTLE DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY
FOR STERLING 120,000. IN FACT, THAT IS THE SUM OF CRUISE
MISSILE STUDIES THAT WE INTEND TO SPEND IN THE NEXT
FINANCIAL YEAR. OBVIOUSLY SOME OF THE COMPONENTS AND
THE WORK DONE ON ANTI-SHIP AND OTHER GUIDED WEAPONS

WOULD HAVE A BEARING ON THE STUDIES.

HE IS CONFUSING COMPONENT STUDIES FOR THEM WITH THE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 04668 02 OF 02 222151Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-12
OES-07 OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 /109 W
-----090922 222216Z /73

R 222101Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4476
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAREUR

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 04668

LONGER RANGE CRUISE MISSILE WHICH IS WHAT PEOPLE
NORMALLY ASSOCIATE WITH THE TERM CRUISE MISSILES. WHAT
DISTURBS ME MOST IS THAT MR. ALLAUN PREFERS ANY
SNIPPET OF INFORMATION IN ANY JOURNAL TO WHAT I HAVE
TOLD HIM.

MR. HUGH FRASER (STAFFORD AND STONE, C) - WOULD HE BE
MORE EXPLICIT WHEN HE SAYS THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR
STUDYING A SUCCESSOR TO THE POLARIS INDEPENDENT BRITISH
MISSILE?

MR. MULLEY - IN OUR VIEW THE EXISTING POLARIS FLEET
WILL BE EFFECTIVE FOR MANY YEARS, SO THERE IS NO NEED
TO TAKE A DECISION ON WHETHER OR HOW ANY OTHER ARRANGE-
MENTS MAY HAVE TO BE MADE.

MR. NORMAL ATKINSON (HARINGEY, TOTTENHAM, LAB) - WILL
HE MAKE A FIRM AND CLEAR DECLARATION THAT NEITHER HE
NOR A LABOUR GOVERNMENT INTEND TO INTRODUCE ANY NEW
GENERATION OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS OR NEW DELIVERY SYSTEMS
NOW OR AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE, WHETHER CONDITIONS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 04668 02 OF 02 222151Z

CHANGE OR NOT?

MR. MULLEY - I HAVE MADE CLEAR MANY TIMES THAT WE
STAND BY OUR COMMITMENT IN THE ELECTION MANIFESTO
NOT TO PROCEED WITH A NEW GENERATION OF NUCLEAR
STRATEGIC MISSILES.

SIR IAN GILMOUR, CHIEF OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON DEFENCE
(CHESHAM AND AMERSHAM, C) - AS EVEN A LABOUR GOVERNMENT
IS THEORETICALLY SUPPOSED TO BE INTERESTED IN OUR
DEFENCES, WHY HAS HE NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE A SUCCESSOR
TO POLARIS AND A CRUISE MISSILE?

MR. MULLEY - THE CRUISE MISSILE CAN BE USED IN A
VARIETY OF WAYS AND WE HAVE NO PLANS TO ACQUIRE OR
MANUFACTURE IT BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL GREAT DOUBTS
ABOUT ITS CAPABILITIES. AFTER ALL, THE UNITED STATES
HAVE WORKED ON THIS FOR MANY YEARS AND STILL HAVE IT
ONLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT.

STREATOR

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, POLARIS MISSILE, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON04668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780127-0008
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780338/aaaabfvg.tel
Line Count: 193
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5263c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3240858
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLARIS MISSILE REPLACEMENT SUMMARY: IN COMMONS ON 21 MARCH, MULLEY WAS PRESSED BY BOTH LABOR LEFT-WING BACKBENCHERS AND SIR IAN
TAGS: MNUC, MMOL, MPOL, UK, US
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5263c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014